

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Darryl Scott Burkett)
Serial No.: 09/644,923) Group Art Unit: 3652
Filed: August 23, 2000) Examiner: T. Brahan
For: Trailer-Mounted Crane)
Apparatus)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

DECLARATION OF TED FIST

1. My name is Ted Fist. I am the Golf Course Superintendent of the Wynstone Golf Club of Illinois.
2. I have held the position of Golf Course Superintendent for 6 years.
3. Over the course of my serving as Golf Course Superintendent, I have been responsible for many landscaping projects on the golf course.
4. There has been a need in the golf course landscaping to solve the problem of retaining steep slopes that drop into water features around the golf course. Particularly, the problem is exacerbated when the steep slopes are adjacent to a sensitive area like a golf course green.
5. In providing a solution to the problem several criteria must be met, including: the process of installing the retaining wall must not be so damaging to the golf course that cleanup and repairs from the work are extensive or overly expensive.
6. I investigated many available landscaping techniques and selected the steel retaining wall system provided by Darryl Burkett and Riverwalls, Inc. The steel retaining

wall system utilizes a small, lightweight trailer mounted crane that supports a vibratory driver. The vibratory driver power unit is mounted on the crane with the crane power unit and the controls for both are operated from a common control station. The trailer can be towed by a small vehicle such as a pick up truck and utilizes wide tires to further decrease the forces on sensitive ground areas. The trailer mounted crane can be operated on the golf course green without damage to the green and without the need for expensive ground protection.

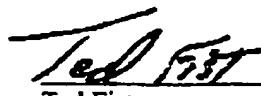
The trailer crane can vibrate metal sheet piling with a 16 foot reach because it utilizes a single axle compact trailer. The trailer crane can be positioned into more confined areas compared to conventional, larger cranes.

7. Prior conventional equipment that was used to install sheet piling in areas such as around greens required a crane or backhoe to support the vibratory hammer and a separate skid and control for the vibratory hammer. This required more equipment, more staging area, a greater possibility for turf damage, and a greater set up and break down time.

8. I consider myself one of at least ordinary skill in the art of golf course landscaping and techniques and I am knowledgeable about the type of cranes and equipment usable on a golf course green.

9. In my opinion, the Riverwalls, Inc. compact trailer crane achieves surprising results in that it includes a lightweight, easily maneuverable crane that can be used on a golf course green while still reaching 16 feet and lifting 1200 pounds, enough to lift and operate a vibratory hammer to install sheet piling. Furthermore it is surprising that a compact trailer mounted crane can also incorporate a vibratory hammer power unit on its platform as well as the hydraulic power unit for the crane wherein a single operator can operate both apparatus at one station.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.


Ted Fist
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